

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

LEVEL
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NCC ECUMENICAL COMMISSION PREPARES REPORT FOR EVANSTON

Dr. Rajah B. Manikam of India is compiling a book entitled "Christianity and Asian Revolution". He wanted to include in that book answers to the questions and recommendations with regard to the actual situation in Japan. The statement was adopted by the NCC Ecumenical Commission at its meeting on Nov. 18. A summary was made of the major problems facing the churches in Japan, and was divided into the "Challenge from the Outside" and the "Challenge from Within". Economic and ideological problems were emphasized as the external challenges, while problems arising from the ethnic religious background of the country, and those relating to the traditional social background were listed as being the chief internal challenges.

Six recommendations concerning ways in which the Asian churches could participate more fully in the WCC included the suggestions that the NCC become an official agency of the WCC, that the Asian churches participate in foreign missionary work under the joint auspices of the WCC, and that a way be found to enlist the national NCC related churches as regular or associate members of the WCC.

The Commission also made recommendations concerning ways in which the WCC could strengthen the life and work of the Asian churches. These included the ideas that the WCC subsidize national cooperative planning on evangelism and research through the NCC, and that some of the regional conferences of the WCC be held in Asia. It was also suggested that the WCC both help send experts in various Christian fields to Asia, and assist the Asian church leaders in travelling to the west for study and observation.

GERMAN DEACONESSSES ARRIVE IN JAPAN

Five deaconesses from the Japan Committee of the German Missionary arrived in Japan on November 14 enroute to Hamamatsu Sanatorium conference. Two other are already working in Tokyo. At an NCC reception on Nov. 16, the "protestant nuns" attired in their habits explained some of the background of the Deaconess movement in Germany. Deaconesses have been working in hospitals, churches, and kindergartens in Germany since the movement was started in 1838 by the Rev. Freidner. At present there are about 46,000 deaconesses in

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Germany, belonging to more than 100 Mother Houses. The deaconesses take the traditional vows of chastity, and devote themselves to lives of service.

"MIDNIGHT MISSION" REPRESENTATIVE ARRIVES TO WORK IN JAPAN

Miss Strom of the German Midnight Mission arrived in Japan on Nov. 14 to join 2 others of her group who are already at work here among the "street girls". The mission devotes itself exclusively to the work of evangelizing the street walkers and prostitutes.

LITERATURE SECRETARY MAKES SOUTHERN TRIP

The promotion of literature evangelism and the formation of local councils of churches were the ideas driven home by NCC Literature Secretary Ebisawa at a series of meetings held in Shimonoseki, Yahata, Fukuoka, Kumamoto, Kagoshima and Miyazaki from Nov. 15-20. Pastors and lay leaders gave an enthusiastic reception to Secretary Ebisawa's ideas about a "new approach to evangelism" and expressed the hope that similar meetings could be held annually.

JAPAN BIBLE SOCIETY ANNOUNCES SPECIAL CAMPAIGN TO CELEBRATE 3rd JUBILEE

The Japan Bible Society will sponsor a special campaign and a 3 year plan as part of the celebration of the 3rd jubilee of Bible Society work. The Society, which was started in England in 1804, has had work in Japan for 80 years. The program for the celebration was adopted by the JBS at its annual Director's Meeting on Nov. 19, and will include: Mass meetings in Tokyo and Osaka to dedicate the new colloquial Bible; Large scale Bible exhibitions and Bible lectures in Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, and other key cities; The publication of a "History of Japanese Translations of the Bible" and "The History of the Bible Society", as well as the publication of special Bibles with 3rd Jubilee seals; and rebuilding Bible Libraries. The Directors also decided to send delegates to the ceremony in London in April 1954.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH ELECTS NEW BISHOP

Rev. Hidetoshi Nose, priest of St. Andrew's church in Tokyo was elected Diocesan Bishop for South Tokyo Diocese at a Diocesan Synod on Nov. 23. He will fill the place of the late Bishop Shinjiro Maekawa who died recently. Bishop Nose has been at St. Andrew's for 12 years. He is a graduate of Seikokai Theological Seminary and has studied at England 3 years.

REFORMATION SCHOLAR ELECTED TO JAPAN ACADEMY

For the first time, the Japan Academy has elected to membership a scholar in the field of Christian history. The man so honored is Dr. Ken Ishihara, former president of Tokyo Christian Womens College, and at present a professor at Aoyama Gakuin. Dr. Ishihara, who specialized in reformation history is a graduate of Tokyo University and received his doctorate from that University.

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He has studied abroad in Germany.

Dr. Ishihara was the guest of honor at a tea given by the NCC and the Christian Historians' Society on Nov. 18 and attended by outstanding Christian leaders and professors from a number of Christian schools and associations.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL LEAFLETS PUBLISHED

The December Sunday School leaflets will contain beautiful color pictures of the Three Wisemen as a special Christmas present to Japan Sunday Schoolers. The pictures, which are inserts, may be taken out and framed, and have special Christmas songs printed on the backs.

BOOK ON KAGAWA AVAILABLE AT SPECIAL PRICE

"Unconquerable Kagawa" the book about the noted Japanese Christian by Emerson O. Bradshaw, Kagawa's companion on his 1950 American tour, is now available in Japan at a special half-price of 450 yen (\$1.25 for dollar checks). The book is divided into 2 sections, of which the first section deals with an analysis of Kagawa's life from the point of view of one who watched him cover 50,000 miles to deliver 400 lectures to 350,000 people in the U.S. in 1950. Part 2 reviews the crucial life experiences of Kagawa as they were recounted in his American lectures. The book may be purchased from "The Christ. Weekly" 6, 1-chome, Kanda-Nishikicho, Chiyodaku, Tokyo, and proceeds from the sales will go to the Kagawa Committee in America.

